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CREDITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Report of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st. DECEMBER, 1951

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To the Crediton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951.

The Crediton Rural Area comprises some 93,370 acres. The present population is probably rather less than 10,000. The number of inhabited houses is now 3,130, the rateable value £30,365, and the product of a penny rate £126. 5. 2d.

The area is entirely agricultural but supports certain allied industries. Thus there is a milk factory in the area, a knacker's yard, an animal by-products factory and a fruit pulping factory.

During the year 90 births were notified, 49 males and 41 females. 111 deaths were notified 18 of which were certified as being due to cancer and 2 to tuberculosis.

During the months of May, June and July there was a minor epidemic of measles of which 123 cases were notified. Other infections notified were:

Dysentery	=	1 case.
Scarlet fever	=	3 cases.
Anterior poliomyelitis	=	2 cases.
Pneumonia	=	12 cases.
Erysipelas	=	1 case.
Pulmonary tuberculosis	=	2 cases.
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	=	2 cases.

During the year the domiciliary midwifery service, the health visiting service, the home nursing service, the arrangements for vaccination and immunisation and the ambulance service continued to work smoothly.

There continues to be a shortage of women able and willing to undertake domestic help service. For this, among other reasons, more and more expectant mothers prefer to be delivered in hospitals. In cases where any special difficulty

is anticipated this is clearly right but there is much to be said for the normal confinement being carried out at home under the patients' own doctor and district nurse. In the vast majority of cases the bearing of a child is a normal and straightforward function: it would be a retrograde step if young women began to regard it as in some ~~sense~~ a disease always requiring the resources of the hospital and the services of a specialist. An increasingly high standard of obstetrics is now demanded of both general practitioner obstretricians and of district midwives. Advantage should be taken of this skill.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

L. N. JACKSON, B. A., D. M., B. Ch. (Oxon)

Medical Officer of Health Crediton Rural Area.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the
year ending 31st December, 1951

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1951.

HOUSING

Housing still continues to be the major problem but steady progress is being made in constructing new Council Houses. No progress, however, is made in the repair of existing dwellings. Restriction of building work through Licensing prevents some owners who are prepared to carry out major works of repair, from doing so, while many others are not prepared to do major repairs, even if they were permitted to, because of the low rents received.

Council Houses:

Houses were erected by the Council in four parishes, as follows: Chawleigh 6; Newton St. Cyres 8; Cheriton Bishop 8; and Yeoford 6; a total of 28 houses.

At the end of the year 21 houses in other parishes were under construction.

The provision of a satisfactory water supply and suitable drainage disposal arrangements often causes much anxiety at many of these rural housing sites. The progress made by the North Devon Water Board will soon ease the difficulties in connection with water supply, but I am afraid the difficulties in connection with the disposal of drainage from the new estates will not only continue, but tend to increase.

Private Houses:

7 new private enterprise houses were completed during the year, and 2 are now under construction.

A further 8 dwellings have been provided by private enterprise, by the conversion of existing buildings into dwellings.

BUILDING LICENSING

Last year 1 Licence was allocated to the Council for the erection of a private dwelling.

This year the number was 2. True it is a 100% increase but not a very encouraging total.

The Licences issued during the year in respect of property in this District were :-

20 Licences for repairs and additions	£8,681
9 " " conversions	3,653
2 " " new dwellings	4,875
49 " issued by the Regional Licensing Officer in respect of Farm Houses, Farm Buildings, and Business premises	29,882
Total	<hr/> £47,091 <hr/>

BUILDING BYELAWS

75 new Applications were received under the Byelaws. The number of approvals issued was 74 and the number disapproved was 4.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Under the Planning Acts, 88 new Applications were received. 84 Approvals were issued and 1 Refusal. 3 Applications were carried forward.


WATER SUPPLY

The rainfall for the year was above normal, but this did not prevent the many "hardy annual" shortages from again occurring.

All the public water supplies in the District were taken over by the North Devon Water Board on April 1st this year. I doubt whether the Board was fully aware of the trouble they were accepting, but I am positive that with their resources and energy they will ease the shortage problem wherever possible.

The Board have commenced their Contract No.29 which provides for the laying of a main from Witheridge, through Thelbridge, Black Dog, Kennerleigh, Stockleigh English, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Stockleigh Pomeroy, and Shobrooke, to Newton St. Cyres. When completed this main will solve shortages that now occur at times in all these villages.

Improved supplies have been given to Lapford and Morchard Bishop, by the Board, from their Bugford temporary source; and they have carried out local interim improvements at Down St. Mary, Cheriton Bishop, Cheriton Cross, and Cheriton Fitzpaine. At Coldridge, Sandford, Yeoford and Colebrooke the supplies are not satisfactory.



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Schemes have been submitted to the Ministry, by the Board, for the laying of mains to Cheriton Bishop, Cheriton Cross, Crockernwell, Coldridge, Nymet Rowland and Down St. Mary.

To ease acute shortages, the Board hauled water to villages as follows :-

Coldridge 265,000 galls., Cheriton Bishop 206,400 galls.,
Down St. Mary 194,800 galls., Sandford 19,000 galls.,
Poughill 9,000 galls., and Wembworthy 4,800 galls.

The number of houses supplied from public mains in each parish at the end of the year, is as set out below :-

Parish	Direct	Est'd Population	From Standpipes	Est'd Population
Bow	24	84	70	245
Brushford	-	-	-	-
Chawleigh	-	-	-	-
Cheriton Bishop	38	133	-	-
Cheriton Fitzpaine	44	154	25	87
Clannaborough	-	-	-	-
Coldridge	17	59	8	28
Colebrooke	1	3	4	14
Crediton Hamlets	2	7	-	-
Down St. Mary	28	98	-	-
Eggesford	-	-	-	-
Hittisleigh	-	-	-	-
Kennerleigh	-	-	-	-
Lapford	96	336	19	66
Morchard Bishop	85	297	26	91
Newton St. Cyres	-	-	-	-
Nymet Rowland	-	-	-	-
Poughill	18	63	5	17
Puddington	-	-	-	-
Sandford	95	332	13	45
Shobrooke	-	-	-	-
Stockleigh English	-	-	-	-
Stockleigh Pomeroy	-	-	-	-
Thelbridge	-	-	-	-
Upton Hellions	-	-	-	-
Washford Pyne	-	-	-	-
Wembworthy	-	-	14	49
Woolfardisworthy	-	-	-	-
Zeal Monachorum	2	7	26	91

WATER SAMPLES

All public supplies are now sampled by the Water Board. Four samples from private supplies were taken by my Department. Three proved to be satisfactory and the other unsatisfactory.

FARM WATER SUPPLIES

Ministry of Agriculture Grant aided schemes for the improvement of farm water supplies are submitted to this Department for approval. 15 such schemes were submitted during the year and observations and/or suggestions were made, after investigations on the sites.

SEWERAGE

Instructions for the preparation of schemes for sewerage the villages of Cheriton Bishop and Cheriton Cross, Chawleigh, Copplestone, Morchard Bishop, Newton St. Cyres and Shobrooke have been placed by the Council with Consulting Engineers. Conditions are very unsatisfactory in the villages mentioned.

Improvements have been carried out to the Septic Tanks at Glebelands Estate, Cheriton Bishop and at the village of Cheriton Fitzpaine.

FOOD

Ice Cream: 14 premises are Registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream, an increase of 2 on last year. No Ice Cream is manufactured within the District.

Unsound Food: Any food found to be unfit, was surrendered and condemned.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND KNACKERS YARDS

2 slaughterhouses were licensed for emergency slaughter only.

1 licence was issued in respect of a slaughterhouse for the slaughter of horses.

1 Knackers Yard Licence was issued.

All the premises are conducted satisfactorily and many improvements have been made at the Knackers Yard and processing factory.

Animals slaughtered in an emergency are all taken to the meat control centre at Exeter where they are examined.

STATUTORY NOTICES

1 Statutory Notice was issued under the Public Health Acts, and 2 under the Housing Acts.

The Notice under the Public Health Acts was complied with, and the Housing Notices are still outstanding.

INFORMAL NOTICES

4 in respect of 6 premises were issued under the Public Health Acts, and 6 in respect of 8 premises, under the Housing Acts. All these were complied with.

PETROLEUM ACTS

14 new installations for the storage and sale of petrol were licensed during the year. The total number of licences issued was 66.

EXPLOSIVE ACTS

New Registrations for the storage of explosives in small quantities was 5. The total number of premises registered is 22

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Action was taken under Section 50 to bury one person who had no relatives and was without means.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection, which covers all but the most isolated dwellings in the District, is done by Contract, and has continued to be satisfactory. The refuse is disposed of by dumping and controlled tipping.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

On the 3rd September of this year the Rodent Operator engaged by the Council commenced his duties in the District. By arrangement with the Crediton Urban District Council, and with the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, he acts as Operator in both the Rural and Urban Districts. During the four months he was operating, he made 270 routine inspections and 29 as a result of complaints received. 25 premises were treated by the Operator.

INSPECTIONS, VISITS, ETC.

A Summary of Inspections, Visits, etc. during the year is given below:-

Houses - Public Health Act	25	Knackers Yard	8
" - Housing Acts	7	Fried Fish Shop	4
" - Council Houses	3268	Bakehouses	11
" - Moveable Dwellings	20	Food Premises	24
Building Byelaws	279	Cowsheds	37
Town & Country Planning	91	Tinned Foods	2
Building Licensing	71	Petroleum Acts	73
New Drains	127	Explosives	35
Water Supply	159	Nat. Asst. Act 1948	
Water Samples	7	(Burial of the dead)	1
Farm Water Supplies	36	Refuse	45
Complaints	91	Rats and Mice	9
Houses disinfected	2	Schools	18
" disinfecting	2	Factories	27
Sewers	27	Interviews, Misc.	
Ice Cream Premises	16	Inspections, etc.	1440
Slaughterhouses	12	Meetings	120

S.M. PERRIAM, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

